

Poverty Oatgrass

(*Danthonia spicata*)

Natural Range: Dry and sterile or rocky soil throughout Indiana. Degraded soils and disturbed sites with poor fertility and excessive drainage. Sometimes found in open woods and damp, peaty soil.

Description: Poverty oatgrass is typically 1-2 feet tall with curly basal leaves that straighten in damp weather. Seed heads are rarely more than 2 inches long, with the seed borne on spikelets carried off the main stem on short, stiff branches. The awns form an angle and are often tightly twisted below the bend. This is a small grass that may have few leaves on very sterile sites.

Flowering: May-July

Seed Maturity: May-July

Illustration: http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/herbarium/danthonia_spicata.htm
<http://bush.cs.tamu.edu/FLORA/image/k4455600.htm>